Besides, the following steps are being taken to improve the operational performance of PSUs.

(1) The revamp of the Namrup units of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFC) at a revised cost of Rs. 509.40 crore, is under implementation and likely to be completed in May 2003. The Namrup units have been separated into a new entity under the name of "Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited" w.e.f. 1.4.2002.

(2) Government of India have granted the financial reliefs to the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travanacore Ltd. (FACT) and Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL) in March, 2002 and July, 2002 respectively to improve their financial viability.

(3) Plan assistance is being extended to those PSUs, who are not able to generate internal resources for undertaking capital investments, technology upgradation, renewals and replacement etc.

(4) Various cost cutting measures have been taken by PSUs to bring about fiscal discipline to generate internal resources for better and efficient operations of their plants.

(5) Besides, manpower rationalisation including roll back of retirement age from 60 years to 58 years has been undertaken by the PSUs.

Extradition of UCL Chief

1097. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to initiate extradition proceedings against the former Union Carbide Chief, Waren Anderson, in connection with the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy:

(b) if so, the progress made, so far, in the matter; and

(c) by when the extradition proceedings are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Government has examined the request for extradition of Mr. Warren Anderson, former Union Carbide Chief in consultation with concerned authorities. The Investigation Agency has been asked to strengthen the evidentiary links connecting Mr. Anderson to the Bhopal Gas Leakage Tragedy so that the extradition request could be

forwarded to the US Government. A revised request, in conformity with the requirements of the Extradition Treaty with USA in the final stages of preparation.

Wildlife Semen Bank

1098. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to open a wildlife semen bank, to store semen and egg samples of all the endangered species of animals in the country;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this direction;

(c) if not, whether it is worried that certain species would come on the endangered list or become extint; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A "Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LACONES)" is being established at Hyderabad under the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) for undertaking research on biotechnological interventions for conservation of wildlife. Cryopreservation of sperm and ova of endangered species is one of the components of the proposed research programme.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Haze over India

1099. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report has pointed out that a thick brown haze forms over India